

# Nature Connections

— In Southwest Missouri — November/December 2012 —



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To get a picture of this year's prospects for deer hunting in Southwest Missouri, hunters can look at several factors including previous harvest rates in each of the portions of the deer season, places to hunt, conditions of the deer herd, and conditions of their habitat. Trends of harvest in the different deer hunting seasons and hunter participation are showing slight increases. In Southwest Missouri across all portions of the 2011 deer season, antlered bucks made up 45 percent of the total harvest, button bucks 12 percent, and does 42 percent. Statewide, archery deer season is showing a gradual increase in both popularity and harvest over the past several years. In 2011, archers' harvest reflected a 17 percent increase. Both youth firearms and muzzleloader (now called alternative methods) portions harvest increased also from 2010. In Southwest Missouri, Laclede, Hickory, Dallas, Cedar, and Jasper were the top five highest harvest counties while Dade, Stone, Lawrence, Christian, and McDonald counties had the lowest harvests numbers. Our outlook in Missouri's deer

hunting heritage is showing some positive trends for new hunter participation. Youth firearms deer hunter participation in 2011 reflected an increase of 10 percent. However, the challenge of hunter retention is still here. Both types of firearms permits purchased in 2011 declined for the second consecutive year for hunters older than 16 years of age.

A second factor of this year's deer

hunting prospects would be the competition of places to hunt. According to the post-season survey, the densities of firearms deer hunters in Southwest Missouri are in the 5-8 per square mile range. Hickory County has the highest hunter density of 10-14 per square mile while Cedar, Dallas, and Webster follow close behind.

A third and fourth factor in the prospects of this fall's deer season would be the effects of the drought on the local deer herds and upon the condition of deer habitat. Due to the drought, we are seeing an unusual higher number of reports of possible epizootic hemorrhagic disease (EHD) caused from a common virus found in deer. As water levels recede in creeks and ponds, deer seeking water near muddy areas are exposed to biting midge flies that transmit this virus from one infected deer to another. The virus is fatal in most cases and in this extensive drought, the virus can also become more prevalent. Because these sick deer are feverish, they are often found dead in or near water. While the disease has no effect on humans, the virus can have a significant impact on local

deer herds reducing populations from 20-50 percent in some cases. The effects of outbreaks could reduce the number of deer available to hunt this fall. What deer do not succumb to the virus in the first few days can carry the virus longer and develop chronic symptoms. Poor body condition, deteriorating hooves, and ulcers on their tongues could be seen even into the fall hunting seasons. The drought will also have a negative effect on some habitats, mainly the food sources of hard and soft mast (nuts and berries). As oak trees produce fewer acorns, more deer will likely be observed seeking food in open fields if those areas have green browse available. Hunters should take into account these factors in planning their deer hunting activities this fall.

Local Wildlife Management Biologists can meet with landowners and hunters to discuss their deer management goals. They assist in developing approaches that are tailored to the habitat conditions on their properties. The University of Missouri (MU) Extension and Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) are collaborating on a publication series devoted solely to deer management that explain how to obtain population information and deer biology, including antler growth and aging deer. These publications are free to the public and available on MU Extension's website at <[extension.missouri.edu/main/DisplayCategory.aspx?C=547](http://extension.missouri.edu/main/DisplayCategory.aspx?C=547)>. To contact your nearest Wildlife Management Biologist, contact the Southwest Regional Office at 417-895-6880, or visit the website at <[mdc.mo.gov](http://mdc.mo.gov)> and select your county in the "Who's My Local Contact?" box on the lower right-hand margin.

— Tim Russell  
Wildlife Regional Supervisor



201 W. RIVIERA DRIVE, SUITE B  
JOPLIN, MO 64804

The Joplin Conservation Office, located in the Wildcat Glades Conservation & Audubon Center, is your local connection to Missouri's fish, forests, and wildlife. Stop by and purchase a fishing/hunting license, attend a nature program, go for a hike, enjoy a picnic, or access Shoal Creek. Within the 190 acres of Wildcat Park, you will find a diverse mix of wildlife habitats rich with flora and fauna.

**HOURS:** Monday – Friday: 8am – 5pm  
Closed all state holidays  
Audubon Center hours vary

**DIRECTIONS:** From I-44, take exit 6, and turn south on MO-86. Turn right on Riviera Drive to enter Wildcat Park.

#### TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:

Call 417-629-3423 to sign up for a program requiring registration. Programs are free.

**WEBSITE:** [mdc.mo.gov/node/292](http://mdc.mo.gov/node/292)

## NOVEMBER & DECEMBER EVENTS

### DISCOVER NATURE FAMILIES BACKYARD BIRDS AND WINTER BIRD FEEDING

NOVEMBER 9 ~ FRIDAY ~ 6:30–8PM

WALTER WOODS CONSERVATION AREA

*Registration required (Families)* Join us to learn what birds will find your yard desirable. We will share tips on the best birdseed, feeders, birdbaths, and houses, as well as trees and flowering plants to attract birds to your home.



### INTRODUCTION TO FLY-FISHING AND FLY-TYING

DECEMBER 1 ~ SATURDAY ~ 9AM–3PM

WALTER WOODS CONSERVATION AREA

*Registration required (Ages 8 and up)* Have you ever wanted to try fly-fishing or fly-tying, but didn't know how to get started, what to use, or even where to go? Learn casting and tying flies from the local MAKO Fly-Fishers and Conservation Department staff. All the basic information and techniques you need to start enjoying the unique experience fly-fishing offers will be presented and demonstrated. All the supplies, equipment, and hands-on instruction for you to make your own lures will be provided. Please dress appropriately for the weather; the program will feature indoor as well as outdoor learning sessions. Participants may bring their own gear or use ours. Participants 16 and older must have a valid fishing permit.



*Bring the family for a morning of fly-fishing at Roaring River on December 15*

### DISCOVER NATURE FAMILIES FLY-FISHING

DECEMBER 15 ~ SATURDAY ~ 9AM–12NOON

ROARING RIVER STATE PARK (near Cassville)

*Registration required (Families)* Meet us at Roaring River State Park to hone your fly-fishing techniques. Volunteers with MAKO Fly-Fishers and Conservation Department staff will demonstrate common techniques and fishing strategies to catch trout in area waters. Bring your own fly rod, if you have one, and tackle. A limited number of fly rods will be available. All participants who will be fishing must have a trout permit and participants 16 and older must have a valid fishing permit for the winter catch-and-release season.



## ASK THE NATURALIST

### My trees aren't making acorns? How will this impact deer and other wildlife this fall? Is there anything I can do?

Not only has the drought stressed oak trees, but also most of the food-producing plants in the forests. Mast is a term you see often referring to the food provided by trees. "Hard mast" trees are walnuts, hickories, and oaks and "soft mast" trees are dogwoods, mulberry, hawthorns, black cherry, sassafras, persimmon, and many more. While acorns are a staple food source for deer, deer eat more than 300 different plants in Missouri.

The lack of water sometimes reduces the ability for plants and trees to function. With less water available, trees and plants may produce smaller amounts of mast, produce seeds and acorns that do not fill completely, abort reproduction altogether, or any combination of the above. The smaller crop of mast available may result in pushing wildlife out of the woods into more open areas in search of other food sources.

**What you can do:** When it comes to nature and wildlife management, it is not wise to "put all your acorns in one basket." Instead, remember that a diversity of plant life equals not only a diversity of animal life, but also multiple food sources for wildlife. Sometimes certain trees or plants are eliminated or culled when managing a forest for lumber or firewood or grasslands for haying and grazing. However, spread the word that these trees and plants may be the link to provide the essential resources throughout a given year for wildlife—whether it is white-tailed deer, wild turkey, squirrels, or songbirds—to survive.

– Kevin Badgley, Interpretive Center Manager

## TREE PRUNING WORKSHOPS

November 5 • Monday • 6:30–8:30pm at Conservation Department Office, 1109 S. Main Street, El Dorado Springs

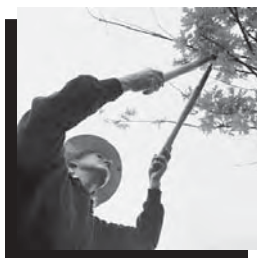
November 8 • Thursday • 6:30–8:30pm at Aurora Rural Fire Department, 1175 E. Church, Aurora

November 26 • Monday • 6:30–8:30pm at Wildcat Glades Conservation & Audubon Center, 201 W. Riviera Dr, Joplin

November 29 • Thursday • 6:30–8:30pm at New-Mac Community Room, 9 Mustang Lane, Anderson

**TREE PRUNING DEMONSTRATION:** December 1 • Saturday • 1-4pm at Sarcoxie Rental Housing, 400 E. High St (next to Country Fresh Market), Sarcoxie

Register by calling 417-629-3423 (Ages 10 and up) Properly guiding a young tree with pruning will help it develop a desirable shape and improve long-term health. Older trees often only need light pruning to remove dead branches and poor structure. Learn the difference by attending one of the Tree Pruning Workshops near you.







4897 N. FARM ROAD 61  
ASH GROVE, MO 65604

Facilities include an outdoor education center and archery, rifle, pistol, and shotgun ranges, including skeet and trap.

### HOURS:

#### September 14 – April 14

Monday & Thursday: 9am – 4:30pm

Friday – Sunday: 12noon – 4:30pm

#### April 15 – September 13

Monday: 9am – 4:30pm

Thursday: 9am – 7:30pm

Friday – Sunday: 12noon – 4:30pm

Closed Tuesdays & Wednesdays and all state holidays. Hours are subject to change.

**FACILITIES AND FEES:** Available for individual and group use. Call for information and possible restrictions.

- Rifle/pistol range fee: \$3 per booth per hour
- Trap/skeet range fee: \$3 per person per round of 25 clay targets
- Shotgun patterning range: \$3 per person per hour
- Archery range: \$3 per person per hour
- Group use fee: \$20 per hour plus \$3 per round of 25 clay targets

**DIRECTIONS:** US Highway 160 west of Willard, turn south on Farm Road 61, and go 2.5 miles, facility on the west side of road.

### TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:

Call 417-742-4361 or email

<DaltonRange@mdc.mo.gov> with your name and phone number to sign up for a program requiring registration. Programs are free.

**WEBSITE:** [mdc.mo.gov/node/288](http://mdc.mo.gov/node/288)

### HOLIDAY CLOSINGS:

Veterans Day ..... November 12

Thanksgiving Day ..... November 22

Christmas Day ..... December 25

## DECEMBER EVENT

### PHEASANT HUNTING CLINIC

DECEMBER 1 ~ SATURDAY ~ 8:30AM–4:30PM

Registration required (Ages 7 and up) Join us to learn about pheasant hunting in Missouri. All



participants who complete the clinic will be invited back to a bird hunt on the Bois D' Arc Conservation Area on Saturday, December 8. All instruction, firearms, and ammunition will be provided at no charge. Space is very limited.

## DEER SIGHT IN

From October 28 to November 9, the range will be open daily from 9am to 4:30pm so visitors can come to the range and sight in their deer rifle scopes. Staff will be available to assist with bore sighting. Regular range fees apply.



*Prepare for deer season now*

## DEER SEASON SAFETY

With a hint of fall in the air, it is time to begin preparing for deer season in Missouri. I find that it takes some preparation time to increase your chances of being successful since our actual hunting days are somewhat limited by personal schedules and commitments that always seem to interfere with hunting season. It has been my experience that you can gain much enjoyment by pre-season scouting activities, such as hanging and checking game cameras, looking for scrapes and rubs, or selecting the proper tree to hang your tree stand.

Most of all, I have learned that it always pays to bring your favorite deer rifle to the shooting range and use our bore sighting system to save ammunition, time, and money and to make sure it is correctly sighted in and in good working condition for the opening day of the season. Nothing can be more disappointing than when you have that buck of a lifetime in your crosshairs and you squeeze the trigger and with the crack of the rifle you see him bound away untouched. Your pre-season efforts help eliminate this kind of misfortune increasing your harvest rate and reducing the wounding of the resource making recovery much easier for you.

Here are a few deer hunting safety rules and tips we recommend:

- Always point the muzzle of firearms in a safe direction in the field and at home.
- Treat every firearm as if it were loaded.
- Always make sure the firearm is unloaded and the action locked open, except while you are hunting.
- Always positively identify your target and what is beyond it before taking the safety off and firing.
- Always wear a hunter safety orange vest or jacket and hat while deer hunting.
- Never shoot at sound, color, or movement alone. Avoid wearing the colors of tan or white.
- Develop a hunt plan and stick to it. For example, tell someone where you are going to hunt and don't change locations without telling someone or returning on time according to your hunt plan.
- Use the correct ammunition for your firearm and only carry your own ammunition while hunting.
- Always use good equipment to secure your tree stand and climbing steps to the tree.
- Always use a tree stand safety harness, not a belt to protect yourself in case of falling.
- When climbing into your tree stand always use three points of contact with the ladder to maintain control of yourself.
- Be sure to properly secure all of your equipment in the stand with you once you are situated, especially your firearm.
- When raising and lowering your firearm into the stand be sure it is unloaded with the muzzle pointed down to prevent self-inflicted shootings.
- Be sure you have a sharp knife and disposable gloves for field dressing your game.
- A good rope or cord is very useful for pulling your deer from the woods.

For information about season dates and deer hunting regulations, visit the website at <[mdc.mo.gov/node/2458](http://mdc.mo.gov/node/2458)>.

– Mike Brooks, Outdoor Education Center Supervisor

# Springfield Conservation Nature Center



4601 S. NATURE CENTER WAY  
SPRINGFIELD, MO 65804

The Springfield Conservation Nature Center is located in southeast Springfield just west of US-65 off the James River Freeway (US-60). Indoors, enjoy nature exhibits, attend programs, purchase hunting and fishing permits, browse through a nature-related gift shop, and pick up free conservation brochures. Outdoors, enjoy three miles of hiking trails through a variety of natural communities.

## CURRENT HOURS:

**November 1 – February 28**

**Building** Tuesday – Saturday: 8am – 5pm  
Closed Sunday and Monday

**Trails** Sunday – Saturday: 8am – 6pm

## TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:

Call 417-888-4237 to sign up for a program requiring registration. Programs are free.

**WEBSITE:** [mdc.mo.gov/node/287](http://mdc.mo.gov/node/287)

## NOVEMBER EVENTS

Registration begins November 1

*If you are unable to attend a program, please call to cancel so that someone on the waiting list may attend.*

### HIKING CLUB

NOVEMBER 10 ~ SATURDAY ~ 8AM–2PM

*Registration required (Ages 18 and up)*

Explore the Homesteaders Trail on the Henning Conservation Area with Volunteer Naturalist Doug Gilliam. Meet at the nature center and carpool. Bring a sack lunch and water and wear comfortable hiking shoes. Hike is approximately 4½ miles in length and rated as moderate to difficult.

### DISCOVER NATURE FAMILIES GEOCACHING BASICS

NOVEMBER 10 ~ SATURDAY ~ 9AM–12NOON

NOVEMBER 10 ~ SATURDAY ~ 1–4PM

*Registration required (Ages 8 and up with an adult mentor)* Bring your family and learn about geocaching. This outdoor treasure-hunting hobby is fun for the whole family. We'll go over the basics before we head out to find a few local geocaches. Dress for the weather. We'll meet at the nature center and carpool.



### TRAIL TRIVIA

NOVEMBER 10 ~ SATURDAY ~ 9AM–4PM

*No registration required (All ages)* Spend a couple of hours hiking and testing your nature knowledge! Trek our trails and answer nature-related questions along the way. Stop by the nature center anytime to pick up the questions and then return to check your answers and claim your prize.

### DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY FOR BEGINNERS

NOVEMBER 10 ~ SATURDAY ~ 1–4PM

*Registration required (Ages 12 and up)* Join Volunteer Naturalist Bob Ball to learn how to use your digital camera. Nature photography will be emphasized. Bring your camera for an outdoor shoot.

### BADGE BONANZA

NOVEMBER 13 ~ TUESDAY ~ 6:30–8PM

*Registration required (All ages)* Attention all scouting and youth organizations! You won't want to miss this program on birds that will help you earn nature badges. We'll play some games and do fun activities that will help you learn about bird migration and identification. Program is also open to the public.

### STORY TIME WITH MS. LADYBUG

NOVEMBER 14 ~ WEDNESDAY ~ 11–11:30AM

*No registration required (Ages 2–6)* Join Volunteer Naturalist Joyce Tolliver as she reads a nature story and shares activities with your 2–6 year olds. Please, no organized groups.

### NATURE AND THE ARTS THE PHOTOGRAPHY OF NOPPADOL PAOTHONG

NOVEMBER 16 ~ FRIDAY ~ 7–8PM

*Registration required (Ages 12 and up)* Wildlife Photographer Noppadol Paothong returns to share stories from his 11-year journey of creating his recently published and long-awaited book, *Save the Last Dance—A Story of North American Grassland Grouse*. He spent over a decade documenting these highly endangered birds, recording captivating images of the species' mating rituals and habitats. Whether you're interested in photography, conservation in general, or grouse specifically, you're sure to be captivated by this presentation. Books will be available to purchase for signing following the program. Enjoy Noppadol's photography on display throughout the month of November.

### WINTER TREE ID

NOVEMBER 17 ~ SATURDAY ~ 9–11AM

*Registration required (Ages 12 and up)* Identifying trees in winter requires know-how and an eye for detail. Dress for the outdoors as Volunteer Naturalist Earl Niewald helps you get to know trees without their leaves.

### DISCOVERY TABLE—LET'S TALK TURKEY

NOVEMBER 23 ~ FRIDAY ~ 1–4PM

*No registration required (All ages)* Drop by for a closer look at turkeys.

### OZARK WHITTLERS & WOODCARVERS

NOVEMBER 24 ~ SATURDAY ~ 10AM–4PM

*No registration required (All ages)* Stop by to see members of the Ozark Whittlers & Woodcarvers transform wood into treasures.

### CONSERVATION KIDS' CLUB IN THE DARK WITH LEWIS & CLARK

NOVEMBER 29 ~ THURSDAY ~ 6:30–7:45PM

*Registration required (Ages 7–12)* Intrepid explorers Lewis & Clark faced many challenges on their trip to the Pacific and back, not the least of which was surviving the long nights. From nighttime predators to freezing cold temperatures, nightfall brought new dangers. Face your fears of the dark as you learn about nighttime survival in this indoor/outdoor program. Don't forget to dress for the weather.

### NATURE AND THE ARTS AN EVENING WITH TIM ERNST

NOVEMBER 30 ~ FRIDAY ~ 5–6PM OR 7–8PM

*Registration required (Ages 12 and up)*

Before or after taking a stroll outdoors, enjoy the scenic photography of nationally known nature photographer Tim Ernst as he returns to share images set to music from his latest publication—*Arkansas Landscapes II*. See stunning images that will leave you inspired to explore the natural beauty of the Ozarks and areas beyond. Books and calendars will be on sale from 6–9pm. Tim will be available for book signing from 6–7pm and 8–9pm. For more information visit Tim's website at <TimErnst.com>.

### EVENING STROLL

NOVEMBER 30 ~ FRIDAY ~ 6–9PM

*No registration required (All ages)* You've seen the fancy flashing light displays all over town—now come out for a quieter, old-fashioned holiday evening. Enjoy a crackling fire, sip hot chocolate, and browse through the gift shop when you come indoors to get warm. The trails will be opened and patrolled, so bring a flashlight and a walking partner because you're on your own.

## TEMPORARY EXHIBITS

### NOVEMBER

**Save The Last Dance—A Story of North American Grassland Grouse**

*Photography by Noppadol Paothong*

### DECEMBER

**Wildlife of Missouri**

*Original Watercolor Artwork by Tom Bose*



# Springfield Conservation Nature Center

## LITTLE ACORNS

Registration required (Ages 3–6)  
Programs are 45 minutes in length. Please limit LITTLE ACORNS programs to one per month. Registration begins November 1.

### CHIPMUNK CHATTER

NOVEMBER 9 ~ FRIDAY ~ 11AM OR 1:30PM  
Scurry in to find out what chipmunks are chattering about as they prepare for the cold winter season.

### FOXES IN THE FIELDS AND FORESTS

NOVEMBER 16 ~ FRIDAY ~ 11AM OR 1:30PM  
NOVEMBER 17 ~ SATURDAY ~ 11AM  
Which fox lives in the fields? Which lives in the forests? Pounce on this program to find out facts about fox families. Fold an origami fox and make a fox “face” to take home.

### WONDERFUL WHITETAILS

NOVEMBER 20 ~ TUESDAY ~ 11AM OR 1:30PM  
NOVEMBER 24 ~ SATURDAY ~ 11AM  
We all know about Bambi, but what do you know about real deer? Where do they live? What do they eat? Come in for some antler-related antics and learn some of the wonders of the whitetails.

## DECEMBER EVENTS

Registration begins December 1

*If you are unable to attend a program, please call to cancel so that someone on the waiting list may attend.*

### CONSERVATION TEEN CLUB-SHOTGUN CLINIC AND PHEASANT HUNT

DECEMBER 1 ~ SATURDAY ~ 8:30AM–5PM  
Registration required (Ages 12–17) Enjoy a day at the Andy Dalton Shooting Range to learn shotgun shooting skills that will prepare you for the upcoming pheasant hunt held on December 8. In order to attend this pheasant hunt, you must attend this clinic. Time slots for your guided pheasant hunt will be drawn at the clinic. You may bring your own shotgun or one will be provided. Shotguns, shotshells, drinks, and lunch will be furnished. Meet at the Andy Dalton Shooting Range. Youth 16 years and older must be hunter education certified and have a current resident hunting permit. **Registration begins November 20.**

### FOR ADULTS ONLY-OWL HIKE

DECEMBER 7 ~ FRIDAY ~ 6–9PM  
Registration required (Ages 18 and up)  
Join us for a nighttime trek at Bois D’Arc Conservation Area as we try to locate different species of owls. Learn their calls and some interesting facts about these predators of the night. Dress for the weather and bring binoculars if you have them. Meet at the nature center and carpool.

### HIKING CLUB

DECEMBER 8 ~ SATURDAY ~ 8AM–6PM  
Registration required (Ages 18 and up) Join Volunteer Naturalist Mike Mihalik for a hike at Devils Backbone Wilderness. Meet at the nature center and carpool. Bring a sack lunch and water and wear comfortable hiking shoes. Hike is approximately five miles and rated as difficult.

### CONSERVATION KIDS' CLUB HOLIDAY CRAFTS FOR KIDS

DECEMBER 11 ~ TUESDAY ~ 6–8PM  
Registration required (Ages 7–12) Hey, kids! Here's your chance to make some presents out of natural and recycled items just in time for the holidays. Drop by anytime and plan to spend at least an hour during this special meeting date and time. Wear old clothes and bring a 29-ounce can, a sack to carry your crafts, and lots of creativity. All other items will be provided. Please, no younger siblings and only one adult per group of kids.

### STORY TIME WITH MS. LADYBUG

DECEMBER 12 ~ WEDNESDAY ~ 11–11:30AM  
No registration required (Ages 2–6) Join Volunteer Naturalist Joyce Tolliver as she reads a nature story and shares activities with your 2–6 year olds. Please, no organized groups.

### FOR ADULTS ONLY DUTCH OVEN COOKING 101

DECEMBER 15 ~ SATURDAY ~ 9AM–12NOON  
Registration required (Ages 18 and up) Learn the basics of Dutch oven cooking to amaze your family and friends with delicious, easy-to-cook meals. After a brief session on basics, the rest of the workshop will involve hands-on learning and tasting.

## LITTLE ACORNS

Registration required (Ages 3–6) Programs are 45 minutes in length. Please limit LITTLE ACORNS programs to one per month.

### WILDLIFE IN WINTER

DECEMBER 5 ~ WEDNESDAY ~ 11AM OR 1:30PM  
What happens to all the wild animals in winter? Some hibernate, of course, but we'll learn some other special “tricks” animals use to survive these frigid months.

### FURRY SCURRY

DECEMBER 21 ~ FRIDAY ~ 11AM OR 1:30PM  
DECEMBER 22 ~ SATURDAY ~ 11AM  
If you're furry, you don't need to worry about a cold winter flurry. Want to know why? Then hurry to the nature center for this program on mammals and their fur.

## HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

The nature center building and area will be closed on the following days:

**Thanksgiving Day, November 22**  
**Christmas Day, December 25**  
**New Years Day, January 1**

### NATURAL HOLIDAY CRAFTS

DECEMBER 15 ~ SATURDAY ~ 10AM–2PM  
No registration required (All ages) Stop by anytime to make some simple holiday ornaments from natural materials. We'll supply the materials, kids bring the creativity, and parents provide the guidance.

### DISCOVER NATURE FAMILIES DUTCH OVEN COOKING 101

DECEMBER 15 ~ SATURDAY ~ 1:30–4:30PM  
Registration required (Ages 7 and up with an adult mentor) Learn the basics of Dutch oven cooking to amaze your family and friends with delicious, easy-to-cook meals. After a brief session on basics, the rest of the workshop will involve hands-on learning and tasting.

### CONSERVATION TEEN CLUB YEAR-END REVIEW

DECEMBER 20 ~ THURSDAY ~ 7–8:30PM  
Registration required (Ages 12–17) Join us as we celebrate the close of another successful year of TEEN Club. After viewing photos of the year's outings, we'll enjoy cake and vote on possible TEEN Club outings for 2013. Prospective and current members and their families are welcome to attend.

### TODDLER TALES

DECEMBER 26 ~ WEDNESDAY ~ 11–11:45AM  
No registration required (Ages 2–6) Bring your tots to hear a special tale about nature and to complete a craft project.

### WINTER BIRD WALK

DECEMBER 26 ~ WEDNESDAY ~ 11AM–12NOON  
No registration required (Ages 7 and up) Dress warmly and join us for a winter bird walk. Bring binoculars and a bird field guide if you have them.

### ANIMAL BINGO

DECEMBER 26 ~ WEDNESDAY ~ 2–3PM  
DECEMBER 28 ~ FRIDAY ~ 1–2PM  
No registration required (Ages 5 and up) Put your nature knowledge to task as you and your family participate in *Animal Bingo*. Learn new facts and win prizes!

### SNAKES OF MISSOURI

DECEMBER 27 ~ THURSDAY ~ 1–2PM  
No registration required (Ages 5 and up) Sometimes they startle us, but snakes always fascinate us. Learn about this often misunderstood reptile, see snakes up close, and even touch one!



483 HATCHERY RD.  
BRANSON, MO 65616

The Fish Hatchery and Conservation Center is located on 221 acres in Branson off Highway 165 next to Table Rock Dam. Outdoors, visitors will experience an active fish hatchery with 700,000 rainbow and brown trout in 30 pools with opportunities to feed the fish. Indoors, enjoy a 3,500 gallon aquarium and hands-on nature exhibits and purchase hunting and fishing permits. The area also features four hiking trails, a picnic area, a boat ramp, and access to Lake Taneycomo.

## FACILITY HOURS:

### Memorial Day – Labor Day

Sunday – Saturday: 9am – 6pm

### Remainder of year

Sunday – Saturday: 9am – 5pm

Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day

## AREA AND TRAIL HOURS:

4am – 10pm

The area is open to fishing 24 hours daily, but special permits and regulations do apply. Check the current fishing regulations or call for details.

## TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:

Call 417-334-4865, Ext. 0, to sign up for a program requiring registration. Programs are free.

**WEBSITE:** [mdc.mo.gov/node/290](http://mdc.mo.gov/node/290)

## FISHING LAKE TANEYCOMO:

Before fishing on Lake Taneycomo, become familiar with the regulations and restrictions. Come by for a free brochure of the entire lake including fishing accesses. For specific details about trout fishing here and across the state, visit [mdc.mo.gov/node/5603](http://mdc.mo.gov/node/5603).

## NOVEMBER & DECEMBER EVENTS

### BIRD FEEDER WORKSHOP

NOVEMBER 9 ~ FRIDAY ~ 6:30–8:30PM

*Registration required* (Families) In addition to making one wooden bird feeder per family, everyone will get the chance to make several natural, recyclable bird feeders. These natural feeders will be made using a variety of pine cones, small logs, and garlands. Each family will also learn which seeds the birds prefer.

### NATURE ORNAMENTS

DECEMBER 8 ~ SATURDAY ~ 10–11:30AM

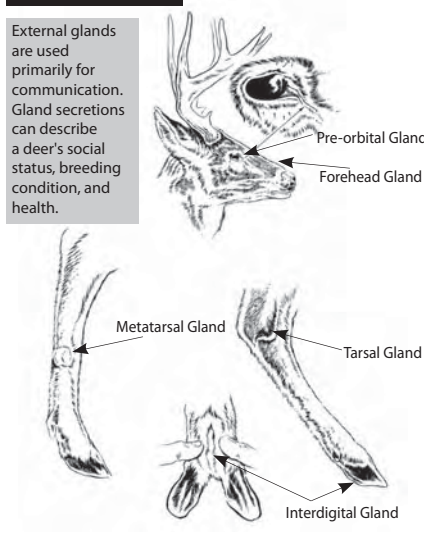
*Registration required* (All ages) Here is your chance to make unique ornaments for windows, trees, or decorations. Everyone will get to put a few hand-crafted fishing lures into clear globes to make one-of-a-kind ornaments. We will also be making art from tree cookies and creating animal tracks from plaster of Paris.

## Did you know?

### DEER SCENTS

#### The Glands

External glands are used primarily for communication. Gland secretions can describe a deer's social status, breeding condition, and health.



When a first-time deer hunter tags their deer on the leg, they sometimes see a strange “hole” above the ankle on the outside of the hind leg. Racing through their mind may be questions such as: How did this hole get in the deer's leg? Is this from an injury or parasite? Did someone shoot this deer in the leg? Upon close inspection, a matching hole at the same location of the other leg may be found and they soon realize that these are supposed to be on the deer. This may be their first introduction to how a deer makes its own scents, because they have just found one of several deer scent glands.

Like many wild animals, the sense of smell is very important to deer for survival. Deer, with their keen sense of smell, are good at identifying fellow deer and other animals, finding food, and detecting potential danger. White-tailed deer are equipped with up to seven external and internal glands that help them communicate with other deer. In addition to identifying specific members

of the herd, these scent glands help deer to communicate health, breeding cycles, and even social status. The five most easily visible glands include the tarsal, metatarsal, interdigital, pre-orbital, and forehead glands.

Located on the inner “hock” of the hind legs is the **tarsal** gland. This gland allows deer to recognize other individual deer and social status. Strangely enough, deer may actually urinate on their tarsal gland and rub them together to get a more “individual” scent. The **metatarsal** gland is located on the outside of the hind leg between the hock and ankle. The use of the metatarsal is mostly a mystery and some biologists feel that it may alert other deer to danger. The **interdigital** glands are located in between the split hooves of the front and back feet. These glands may help deer leave a scent trail that expresses dominance to other deer.

The last two sets of external glands are on the head. The **pre-orbital** gland is located in front of each eye in what looks like a tear duct. When rubbed on branches during the breeding season, the scent from these glands may communicate social status and gender. Finally, the **forehead** glands are located near the nose and most likely have two purposes. The scent not only relays breeding availability when left on branches and rubs, but also allows young deer to recognize their mothers.

As you prepare for deer hunting season, look for signs such as rubs and deer trails. With practice, some deer hunters can improve their chances by imitating one or more of these deer scents using home remedies or commercial fragrances. Scent glands ultimately help deer to recognize other deer, but also help them to navigate through their landscape.

– John Miller, Interpretive Center Manager



# Southwest Regional Office



2630 N. MAYFAIR AVE  
SPRINGFIELD, MO 65803

The Southwest Regional Office is conveniently located just west of the intersection of US-65 and Kearney in Springfield. The public may obtain information on land management, nuisance wildlife, educational opportunities, river and pond management, and more, as well as purchase hunting and fishing permits and obtain area brochures for Conservation Department areas.

**PHONE:** 417-895-6880

**HOURS:** Monday – Friday: 8am – 5pm  
Closed all state holidays

**WEBSITE:** [mdc.mo.gov/node/257](http://mdc.mo.gov/node/257)

## Tree Seedling Program

Looking for an inexpensive way to reforest your wooded acreage? Need a windbreak on your property? Looking for a way to keep the soil from eroding along your stream bank or even in your backyard? The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) has a state nursery in Licking, Missouri, that offers more than 70 species of native trees and shrubs. The order form will be available around the third week of November. Call your local MDC office for a copy.

**How does it work?** Make your selection, place the order, and send no money at that time. You will receive a card in the mail or an email (depending on how you ordered) that confirms your order, total cost, and the ship date. Payment is made at that time. Your trees will be shipped as close to the requested date as possible, typically the end of February through April. Then plant your trees; it's that easy.

Trees and shrubs are sold in bundles of 25 all of the same species. Bundles cost \$4–\$35. A windbreak planted with 25 shortleaf pine trees will cost about 16 cents each. This is a perfect way to replant or create the windbreak or screen that you would like to add to your forests or landscape. If you do not need 25 of the same species, consider working with others to order different species and then exchange seedlings. Last year special mixed-species bundles were available for ordering, such as the *Wild Edible Bundle* or the *Conservation Bundle*.

**Why don't we ship the trees in the fall for fall planting?** Due to transplant shock, seedling trees do not have the root reserve that allows them to survive well over the winter as newly planted trees. Seedlings are typically about 8–12 inches in height and have a bare root. Trees received in the late winter/early spring have root systems ready to grow and do not need to recuperate from being root pruned or cut as in typical nursery field-grown trees. Elongation of the roots system occurs quickly helping the tree grow a healthy root system. The success of a healthy tree all begins with the root system.

Seedlings are very easy to plant. Instructions are included with your order. There are several publications that can assist you with your selection—*Missouri Urban Trees*, *Fifty Common Trees of Missouri*, *Missouri Conservation Trees and Shrubs*. These publications are available online or you can pick up a copy from your local MDC office.

– Cindy Garner, Urban Forester

# Hunter Education



Register online for all Hunter Education courses at  
<[mdc.mo.gov/node/3722](http://mdc.mo.gov/node/3722)>.

A complete listing of courses is also included on this website.

These free 10-hour courses are required for anyone born on or after January 1, 1967, who wants to hunt with firearms in Missouri. Students ages 11 and older must pass a test at the end of the course to be certified. Students under 15 years old must be accompanied by an adult and show proof of age. If you have any previous Missouri hunting or fishing permits or a Missouri Conservation Heritage Card, bring them to class.

Location	Date	Day/Time
Springfield Conservation Nature Center	November 2 & 3	Friday, 6–9pm Saturday, 8am–5pm
For questions, call 417-888-4237		
Andy Dalton Shooting Range	November 16 & 17	Friday, 6–10pm Saturday, 8am–6pm
For questions, call 417-742-4361		
Springfield Conservation Nature Center	December 7 & 8	Friday, 6–9pm Saturday, 8am–5pm
For questions, call 417-888-4237		
Andy Dalton Shooting Range	December 14 & 15	Friday, 6–10pm Saturday, 8am–6pm
For questions, call 417-742-4361		

## Fall Firearms

### Deer Hunting

#### Early Youth Portion:

November 3–4; open statewide

#### November Portion:

November 10–20; open statewide

#### Antlerless Portion:

November 21–  
December 2;  
check locations  
in the 2012 Fall  
Deer & Turkey  
Hunting Regulations  
and Information

#### Alternative Methods Portion:

December 15–25;  
open statewide

#### Late Youth Portion:

December 29–30; open statewide



Pick up a copy of the 2012 Fall Deer & Turkey Hunting Regulations and Information

Available at the Springfield Conservation Nature Center  
and Southwest Regional  
Office for \$7.20 each



Missouri Department of Conservation

## Follow, Friend, and Watch



[twitter.com/mdc\\_online](https://twitter.com/mdc_online)



[facebook.com/MDCOnline](https://facebook.com/MDCOnline)



[youtube.com/user/moconservation](https://youtube.com/user/moconservation)



## Nature Connections Newsletter

To begin receiving the newsletter by mail, call any of the offices listed in the newsletter and leave your name and address.

To begin receiving the newsletter electronically by e-mail, go to [mdc.mo.gov/node/257](http://mdc.mo.gov/node/257), click the "Subscribe by Email" box on the right-hand side of the page, and scroll down to *Nature Connections*.

## Project Feeder Watch

Not only are we watchin' the winter birds at the Springfield Conservation Nature Center, but we're countin' them too. As participants in Cornell University's *Project FeederWatch*, staff and volunteers will keep track of the numbers of each bird species found at the nature center's feeders from late fall through winter. Come out and join us. Count if you like or just enjoy watching the birds.

### Count Dates

#### 2012

Nov 13 & 14  
Nov 27 & 28  
Dec 11 & 12

#### 2013

Jan 8 & 9  
Jan 22 & 23  
Feb 5 & 6  
Feb 19 & 20  
March 5 & 6  
March 19 & 20  
April 2 & 3



## Conservation Area Showcase:

## LEAD MINE CONSERVATION AREA

### LOCATION

Lead Mine Conservation Area (CA) is in northeastern Dallas County, 40 miles south of Lake of the Ozarks, 12 miles north of Bennett Spring, 5 miles east of Tunas, and 21 miles northeast of Buffalo. Access to the area is from Highway 64 west of Bennett Spring, north on Highway T then east on Highway YY to the main entrance at State Forest Road. There is also access to part of the area that lies east of the Niangua River from Highway 5 north of Lebanon, west on Highway E to Bluff Trail which ends on the area.

### HISTORY

The Conservation Department purchased the original 600 acres for the Lead Mine CA in 1965 from the University of Missouri. All land tracts have been purchased with Conservation Department funds or in cooperation with partners' funds, including Federal funds from the Pittman-Robertson Act and Dingell-Johnson Act and the Stream Stewardship Trust Fund administered by the Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation, increasing the area to 7,761 acres.

During early settlement in the late 1800s and early 1900s, some surface lead mining did take place near the area; however, evidence of this is hard to find. Many people made their living and raised their families on small farms that now make up Lead Mine CA. The town of Lead Mine, just one-quarter mile west, is a small community known for its country atmosphere, handmade goods, fresh produce, and horse-drawn buggies.

Lead Mine CA contains many excellent examples of dolomite glade communities, oak-hickory uplands, and clear running springs. Deer, turkey, raccoon, squirrel, rabbit, coyote, and many other small animals and birds are commonly seen from the gravel roads and forest trails.

### FISHING

The area provides about two miles of Niangua River frontage and has a 3.5-mile stretch of Jakes Creek running through it. There is a concrete boat ramp at one access and a good gravel launch at the other access. There are also two fishing ponds available on the area along with many fishless ponds for wildlife.

### HUNTING

Lead Mine CA is open under statewide regulations for hunting, except deer hunting is permitted only with the Archer's Hunting and Firearms Any-Deer Hunting permits. No Archery Antlerless Deer Hunting or Firearms Antlerless Deer Hunting permits may be used. The area is closed to firearms deer hunting during the urban zones and antlerless portions of deer season. Wildlife habitat management includes the creation of watering ponds and manipulation of fields within the forest to provide added food sources. Selective timber harvesting is also an important element in habitat management to produce forage and cover for forest wildlife. Lead Mine's large size and good habitat make for excellent hunting opportunities and a more undisturbed hunting experience for those willing to venture farther off the roads and trails.

### HIKING and CAMPING

There are five primitive camping areas. One is for groups by Special Use Permit only and one is only open October 1 through January 15. The main campground on State Forest Road has 51 sites with 26 of them able to accommodate trailers. Camping is all on a first-come, first-served basis.

There are over 23 miles of trails available to explore. Most of these trails are multi-use so you may see a bicyclist or horseback rider during your hike. Trail distances and difficulty vary so there is probably one that meets your preference. Trailhead signs and maps are available on-site or online. For more information on Lead Mine CA, visit the website at [mdc.mo.gov/a8024](http://mdc.mo.gov/a8024).

— Steven LaVal, Resource Forester